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EDC 102

Expertise Statement

Serving others is an aspect of my life in which I feel I have grown immensely in and excel in. From a very young age, members of my family, especially my mother and grandmother, showed me the importance of helping others. As I spent the majority of my childhood being home schooled, my mom was able to expose my brothers and I to different types of learning in the form of care taking and serving others. Growing up this way has only encouraged me to further my love of serving and helping those who need it most in any possible way.

Not all individuals are lucky enough to have an upbringing similar to mine or such a strong desire to make a positive impact. While I do feel that part of it is due to my genetics, a larger part is due to the way I was raised. For the majority of my childhood, my mom took care of Katie, a young girl who had Downs Syndrome. Katie’s mom passed away when she and her two sisters were in middle school and high school. When my mom met their family and heard their story; she did not hesitate to take Katie and her two sisters under her wing. From having Katie around, I learned the importance of patience, compassion and more importantly, how rewarding it can be to help someone while expecting nothing in return. The real reward is the happiness that being around Katie and her sisters brought to my entire family. This experience encouraged me to get involved in walks/fundraisers for different associations as a member of high school student council, join the Unified sports team in high school which allowed special needs students to participate in sports and be a part of a team, and in many other ways.

Recently however, I feel that I was able to further my opportunities to serve others and make a difference while participating in the Alternative Spring Break offered through URI and a summer job as a nanny. During the week of spring break, I volunteered at many different organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and local food banks in Little Rock, Arkansas. This experience truly opened my eyes to the importance of people like myself who view serving as an important part of who they are. Had I not been raised in a home where providing to those who can benefit from it, I do not feel the trip would have been so eye opening to me. In addition to this trip, my summer job was one that I feel very little can compare to. I was lucky enough to spend my summer with two boys, ages 13 and 10, and become a very important part of their life, and them a very significant part of mine. While some days were long and dealing with two boys, one with autism and type one diabetes could be exhausting; I do not feel that every person has the suitable personality for this type of job. Being the type of individual I am and knowing the rewarding feeling I got at the end of each day is what made every long day worth it.

There were multiple other ideas I could have chosen to write about, but I feel they would not reflect me in the way that this topic does. While it may not be playing a sport or perfecting an instrument, I feel that as an individual, this is what I know the best. There is an unexplainable joy and feeling in giving my time, my passion and my heart into something I’ve learned I can consider myself an expert in. As my mom always told me, helping others teaches you valuable life lessons and when people thank you for your service, thank them because they are shaping you into the person you are.